

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1927
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2000
TAMIL AS CLASSICAL LANGUAGE
MOHAN PONNUSWAMY

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there is longstanding demand of the people of Tamil Nadu, to declare Tamil Language as a classical language by the Union Government; and

(b) If so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The primary responsibility for the development of regional languages lies with the concerned State Governments. However, the Central Government is also implementing several Schemes for the promotion of regional languages including Tamil. The Sahitya Academy administers award for classical and medieval literature and Tamil scholars are also considered under this category. One such award has already gone to a Tamil scholar.